

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached replacement drawing sheet makes changes to Fig. 20 and replaces the original sheet with Fig. 20.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-19 are pending in this application. Claims 6, 10, 11 and 16-17 are currently withdrawn from consideration. By this Amendment, claims 1, 4, 8 and 12 are amended, and claim 3 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein. No new matter is added. Reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates that the Office Action indicates that claims 3, 4, 7-9 and 12-13 contain allowable subject matter. However, for at least the reasons described herein, Applicant respectfully asserts that all claims contain allowable subject matter.

I. Formal Matters

The Office Action objects to Figure 20. Figure 20 is amended to recite "Related Art," so as to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the drawings.

The Office Action objects to the abstract of the disclosure because the abstract exceeds 150 words. The abstract of the disclosure is amended to be under 150 words in length, so as to obviate the objection. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the objection to the abstract.

The Office Action objects to claims 8 and 12 because of informalities. Claim 8 (line 4) is amended to recite "a second direction." Regarding claim 12 (line 4), the period after the phrase "conditional expression (1)" is replaced by a colon, and a period is inserted after the phrase "domain control part" on line 9 of claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examine withdraw the objection to the claims.

II. Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 5, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Oshima (JP 2002-305336). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Independent claim 1 is amended to incorporate the subject matter of allowable claim 3 to obviate the rejection.

In accordance with the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-5, 7, 8, 9 and 12-15 depend from claim 1, and therefore, also define patentable subject matter, as well as for the additional features they recite. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection.

Furthermore, rejoinder of claims 6, 10, 11 and 16-19 is earnestly solicited.

II. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-2 and 4-19 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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JAO/EXC:mab

Attachments:

Substitute Abstract
Replacement Drawing Sheet

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